

- ☑ Westover ARB goes to 24 hour flying operations
- ☑ 850 Westover reservists activated on Feb. 19
- ☑ Base shuttle bus makes rounds every 15 minutes during meal hours

### Hours of operation

#### Fitness center:

Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m.;  
Saturday (non-UTA), 9 a.m.-3 p.m.;  
Sunday (non-UTA), closed;  
UTA Saturdays, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.;  
UTA Sundays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

#### Bowling center:

Monday through Friday lunch and  
bowling, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

#### Westover Consolidated Club

(open daily):

Breakfast: 6-8 a.m.;  
lunch, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; dinner, 5-8 p.m.

#### Westover Dining Facility (daily):

Midnight meals, 11 p.m.-1 a.m.,  
boxed meals provided daily

#### Family Support Center:

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.;  
Saturday and Sunday of A UTA,  
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.;  
Saturday of B UTA, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
closed Sunday of B UTA

#### Legal office:

Monday through Friday,  
7:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.;  
reserve legal office open on A and B  
UTAs only

#### Base exchange:

Monday through Saturday,  
10 a.m.-5 p.m.;  
Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

#### Shoppette:

Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m.-6  
p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

#### Barber shop (located next to BX):

Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.;  
Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.,  
closed Sundays

#### Daily base shuttle:

Bus will complete route every 15  
minutes during meal hours at the  
Westover Club and dining facility. It  
also makes stops at: Hangar Avenue,  
supply and bowling center.



MSgt. Nicole D. Remy, 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Support Squadron, and TSgt. Edward D. Pezanetti, 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron, get assistance with their activation paperwork from SSgt. Caroline Roy of the reserve legal office on Feb. 19 at the dining facility.  
(photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe)

## Patriot Wing hangs out “last chance for gas” sign

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

When the word came in early February from Air Mobility Command that the nation needs an airbridge to move troops and equipment across the Atlantic, the Patriot Wing saluted smartly and went to work. Starting with the help of volunteers, the wing began around-the-clock operations to support an armada of C-5s.

From day one, maintenance and fuels started working two 12-hour shifts to provide “gas and go” service for aircraft carrying all branches of the service. When troops here need meals or billeting, Services and Transportation fill the bill. Aerial porters and the USO have set up a passenger terminal operation that guarantees that troops going overseas will know the meaning of Westover hospitality.

Last Wednesday 850 reservists, mostly maintenance and operations members, started a one-year activation to help put muscle in the war on terrorism. With clockwork efficiency, the 439<sup>th</sup> Military Personnel Flight conducted mobilization lines in the Dining Hall, addressing needs from immunizations to family and employer support.

For the majority of those activated, it was the second call to duty. Following the September 11 terror attack, about half of the 2,500 Westover reservists were activated. Most were released in August and September, although security police remained on duty.

The latest round of activations and high ops tempo place the wing in the forefront of a great national effort.

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## Texans experience New England chilly

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

The Texans who came to New England knew a lot about airplanes, but not much about snow. The 125 maintainers from the 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing, Lackland AFB, spent the first two weeks of February on the Westover flightline experiencing one of the worst stretches of a bitterly cold, snowy season.

When they were activated last week, the reservists from San Antonio went home with stories to tell about blizzards and below zero weather.

"You guys deal with something I've never experienced in my life. Cold takes on a whole new meaning," said TSgt. Vincent Cancholo.

"I hadn't seen snow since 1984 when it snowed two or three inches in San Antonio," said TSgt. Jose Landeros. "Working in the cold makes everything more difficult. The cold is hard on the airplanes. There's more maintenance on the seals," he said.

"It was two below zero here and they told me it was 70 degrees in Texas," said SSgt. Al Hyatt. "I've got to get home and cut the grass. And get hay for my horses," he said.

Hyatt is a true Texan who was featured in Citizen Airman magazine in 2000 when he won a steer team roping event in the Professional Armed Forces Rodeo Association. But he hadn't experienced a New England winter. "I never saw a river freeze before," Hyatt said.

## last chance for gas...

(Continued from page 1)

"Once again, Westover stands at a critical junction of the airbridge of troops and equipment, just as it did before Desert Storm," said Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander.

"Since the September 11 attacks on America the Patriot Wing has been a key player in the war on terrorism. When called, our men and women have performed admirably at home and abroad. They have done so at personal sacrifice to themselves, their families and their employers. I know that as America braces to confront this stubborn crisis, our activated reservists, our volunteers and the rest of our Westover community will again live up to the confidence that the nation has placed in them," the wing commander said.

## Westover building up the stats in airbridge operations

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe  
and MSgt. Tom Allocco

Since Feb. 2, Westover has handled:  
1,624 passengers  
5.2 millions pounds of cargo  
170 aircraft

Westover's nerve center for the ongoing surge has been bustling since Feb. 2 when 24-hour operations began to support the military buildup in Southwest Asia.

As of Feb. 24, 1,624 passengers had gone through Hangar 3, where the air terminal operations center is located, said CMSgt. Bruce L. Westcott, 42<sup>nd</sup> APS ATOC superintendent. The ATOC oversaw the passage of 5,221,761 pounds of cargo on aircraft passing through Westover. Of that amount, Westcott said aerial porters handled 224,170 pounds of cargo on aircraft. One

hundred-seventy transient aircraft have landed and departed the base since Feb. 2. While the aircraft have mostly been C-5s, other types have included C-9s, C-130s, C-141s, and C-17s.

"Services came to us on Monday morning and asked what we needed," Westcott said. "We gave them a wish list. By Wednesday everything was all set up and running."

In the hangar are tents, cots, tables and a lounge with TVs, VCR tapes, video games and telephones. Services, with the help of reservists from other bases, offers midnight meals and boxed flight meals at all hours. During the Gulf War, the Patriot Wing set the standard for hospitality towards tens of thousands of troops deploying and returning from the AOR. The current operation builds on that experience. The 439<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron donated computers to e-mail

messages home. The Family Support Center donated modems and paid for Internet services. They also donated books, magazines, audio books and writing materials. Troops received calling cards through the VFW's Operation Uplink.

Civilian employees across base pitched in to help. The Base Exchange set up a mini-exchange in which desert camouflage pillows unexpectedly became a fad item among troops who scooped them off the shelves.

"They're my family. That's why I'm here," said USO volunteer Marilyn Spofford of Granby. She was in the hangar with her husband, Air Force retiree Bob Spofford, greeting troops, as they have since Desert Shield. The Spoffords are among the USO volunteers in the hangar all hours of the day and night, ready with a hot cup of coffee, cookies and friendly words for the troops.

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## Express-ions

